



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER FEDERAL AGENT SENTENCED FOR FIREARMS STRAW PURCHASING SCHEME

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in San Antonio yesterday, 58-year-old former Drug Enforcement Administration agent Celerino "Cele" Castillo, III, of McAllen, Texas, was sentenced to 37 months years in federal prison for his role in a dealing firearms without a licence.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Royal Furgeson ordered that Castillo be placed under supervised release for a period of two years after completing his prison term.

On October 2, 2008, Mr. Castillo pleaded guilty to a two count Information charging him with conspiracy to deal in firearms without a license and dealing in firearms without a license. In exchange, the government agreed to dismiss the prior indictment charging him with conspiracy to obtain firearms by false statement during firearms purchase and obtaining firearms by false statement during firearms purchase.

By pleading guilty, Castillo admitted that from December 2006 until March 6, 2008, he and others conspired to obtain dozens of pistols and rifles from registered firearms dealers by providing false information on ATF certification forms concerning the actual purchaser.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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